

Visiting Washington D.C.

CONGRESSIONAL CAPITOL TOURS

Reservations for Congressional Capitol Tours may only be scheduled through your member of Congress. These tours will take place before the Capitol opens to the public and are tailored for families and individuals. The tours will be held Monday through Friday, except holidays, between 8:00a.m. and 9:00a.m. and last approximately 1 hour. No more than fifteen people can be scheduled for a single tour. I encourage everyone planning to visit Washington, D.C. to schedule this tour. Please note that all reservations will be scheduled, per availability, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

PUBLIC CAPITOL TOURS

Public tours of the Capitol are conducted by the Capitol Guide Service Monday through Saturday from 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m. Tours last approximately 1 hour. Free timed entry passes for public tours are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, beginning at 9:00a.m. daily. Tickets are distributed one per person, so make sure your entire group is present. They are distributed at the Capitol Guide Service kiosk located at the corner of 1st Street and Independence Avenue S.W. (Garfield Circle). The maximum tour size is 40 people.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GALLERY PASSES

House Gallery passes are available through Member of Congress' offices. You can receive gallery passes from Congressman Murtha by stopping by his office in 2423 Rayburn House Office Building. When the House is out of session, the Gallery is open to guided tours from 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m., Monday-Friday. The Gallery is open at all times when the House is in session. A valid Gallery pass is required for all visitors whether the House is in or out of session. For additional information or questions, please contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-2065 or toll free from Southwestern PA at (800) 289-2642.

WHITE HOUSE TOURS

White House Tours take place Tuesday-Saturday from 7:30a.m.-12:30p.m. All White House Tours must be made through your member of Congress or Senator, and there is no guarantee that each tour request will be granted. Any size group is acceptable, although the number of people may not be increased once the tour has been requested. The requests must be made at least 1 but no more than 6 months in advance. Certain security information from every group member is required for a background check. This information includes full name (middle initial), Social Security Number, and Date of Birth. If you are not a permanent U.S. citizen, a passport number will be required. Please note that the White House Tour Office will notify our office of any approved tours only 1 month prior to the requested tour date.

For additional information or questions, please contact my Washington D.C. Office at (202) 225-2065 or toll free from Southwestern PA at (800) 289-2642.

WHITE HOUSE GARDEN TOUR DATES

White House Garden Tours are given one weekend in the Spring and one in the Fall. The tours have been an annual tradition since 1972 when Pat Nixon first opened the gardens to the public. Visitors are invited to view the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, Rose Garden, Children's Garden and South Lawn of the White House while military bands perform from the White House balcony.

The event is open to the public; however, a ticket is required for all attendees, including small children. The National Park Service will distribute free, timed tickets at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion located at 15th and E Streets on each tour day beginning at 8:00a.m. Tickets will be distributed - one ticket per person - on a first-come basis.

Please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> for current White House Garden Tour schedules, dates and times.

Please note: Tours of the Residence will NOT occur on the dates of the Garden Tours, and these tours are subject to last minute cancellation. For information about the event status, please call (202) 208-1631.

OTHER WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTRACTIONS

Washington, D.C. has an attraction for almost every interest. The following is a list of just some of the sites you might want to see while you're in our Nation's Capitol. I hope any visit you make to Washington will start with a visit to the 12th Congressional District office at 2423 Rayburn Building, located just across the street from the U.S. Capitol Building. You can obtain passes to see the House of Representatives at my office, as well as directions and information about the many things to do and see in our Nation's Capital.

Please visit the Washington, D.C. Convention and Visitors Association for maps and information. Washington, D.C. has one of the most extensive public transportation systems in the country, for more information visit Metro.

Arlington National Cemetery - The cemetery is free and open to the public at 8:00a.m. 365 days a year. From April 1st to September 30th, the cemetery closes at 7:00p.m., the other six months of the year it closes at 5:00p.m. Over 300,000 Americans are buried at Arlington Cemetery, and visitors can also see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Memorial Amphitheatre, the Custis-Lee Mansion, and the graves of Presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft. For the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the changing of the Guard at the Tomb is every hour on the hour October 1st to March 31st. From April 1st through September 30th, the change is on the hour and on the half hour.

Botanic Gardens - The Conservatory is free and open 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. everyday. The new National Garden, located immediately west of the Conservatory, will be open 10:00a.m.-7:00p.m., June 1st through September 30th. After September 30th, the National Garden will close at 5:00p.m. The Botanic Gardens are located at 100 Maryland Ave., SW. Groups of 10-25 visitors may reserve a free 45-minute guided tour of the Conservatory. These tours are offered Monday

through Friday at 10:30a.m. and 1:30p.m. Please make tour reservations at least four to six weeks in advance by calling (202) 225-1116.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing - See how U.S. currency is printed. Free tours are available Monday through Friday from 9:00a.m.-2:00p.m. by contacting my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-2065 or (800) 289-2642. The Bureau is located at 14th and C Sts., SW.

The Washington National Cathedral - Standing higher than the Washington Monument, the Cathedral crowns fifty-seven acres at the city's highest point, a living symbol of our country's heritage of religious freedom and faith. Here you will experience a place of spiritual inspiration and beauty with attention to craftsmanship and artistic detail second to none.

Federal Bureau of Investigation - FBI Tours are undergoing extensive renovations and are closed until further notice.

Ford's Theatre and Lincoln Museum - Currently closed while undergoing major renovations. Located at 511 10th Street, NW.

Georgetown - West of Rock Creek Park. Attractions: Old Stone House, oldest standing house in Washington, D.C., C&O Canal, one of the oldest canals in the Nation, shopping and restaurant district.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - 100 Raoul Wallenberg Pl., SW. Open every day 10:30a.m.-5:30p.m. except Yom Kippur and Christmas Day. Free tickets are available for same-day admission at the museum box office beginning at 10:00a.m., and are required for admission to the permanent exhibition. They can also be purchased in advance through Ticketmaster (1-800-400-9373, \$1.75 per ticket charge plus \$1.25 per order fee).

The International Spy Museum - Owning the largest collection of spy memorabilia from various government intelligence agencies, the Spy Museum opens you up to a world of mystery and espionage. For ticket information, please visit the website or call 866-SPY-MUSEUM.

Jefferson Memorial - South Bank of the Tidal Basin. Open daily from 8:00a.m. until midnight. At the Swan Boathouse, you can rent a pedal boat to cruise the Tidal Basin.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts - Free tours of the Kennedy Center are given by the Friends of the Kennedy Center from 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Monday through Friday and 10:00a.m.-1:00p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tours depart from the parking plaza on Level A and feature the Hall of States and Hall of Nations, the Center's main theaters, and dozens of paintings, sculptures, and other artwork given to the Center by foreign countries. For more information, call (202) 416-8340.

Library of Congress - 1st St. and Independence Ave., SE. Free tours are conducted at 10:30a.m., 11:30a.m., 1:30p.m., 2:30p.m. and 3:30p.m. Monday through Friday. The Library asks that groups over 10 people make a reserved tour by contacting my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-2065 or (800) 289-2642.

Lincoln Memorial - On the west end of the National Mall, at the foot of 23rd St., NW. Always open.

Mount Vernon - Home of President George Washington, 16 miles south south of Washington, D.C. via the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Open every day of the year, April through August 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; March, September and October 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; and November through February 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

National Aquarium - 14th St. between Constitution Ave. and D St., NW, in the basement of the Department of Commerce, Room B-077. Tanks of fish, frogs, alligators, sharks, etc. Open daily from 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. except Thanksgiving and Christmas. General admission for Adults: \$5.00, Seniors and Military Personnel: \$4.00, Children (Ages 2-10): \$2.50, and Children under two: Free. For more information, call (202) 482-2825.

The National Archives - 8th St. and Constitution Ave., NW. See the original copies of the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the Constitution. A new exhibit called the Public Vaults displays over 1,000 fascinating records from the National Archives holdings. Admission is free. The National Archives is open March 15th-Labor Day 10:00a.m.-7:00p.m., and from Labor Day-March 14th 10:00a.m.-5:30p.m. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Last admission is 30 minutes prior to closing. Reservations are recommended by contacting visitorservices@nara.gov or by calling (202) 357-5450.

National Gallery of Art - 6th and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Open Monday through Saturday, 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Open Sunday, 11:00a.m.-6:00p.m. Closed Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, call (202) 737-4215.

The Pentagon - Across the 14th St. bridge from Washington, D.C. in Arlington, VA. Headquarters for the Department of Defense. Tours Monday through Friday 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Reservations are required at least two weeks in advance. You can contact my Washington, D.C. office to schedule a Congressional reserved tour at (202) 225-2065 or (800) 289-2642.

Smithsonian Institution - The world's largest museum complex and research organization composed of 19 museums and 9 research centers. Most museums are open daily, 10:00a.m.-5:30p.m. except Christmas. Admission is free. For more information call (202) 633-1000.

- * Anacostia Community Museum, 1901 Fort Place, SE
- * Arts and Industries Building, 900 Jefferson Drive, SW
- * Freer Gallery of Art & Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, 1050 Independence Ave., SW
- * Hishhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, 7th Street and Independence Ave., SW
- * National Air and Space Museum, 7th Street and Independence Ave., SW
- * National Museum of African Art, 950 Independence Avenue, SW
- * National Museum of American History, 14th Street and Constitution Ave., NW
- * National Museum of Natural History, 10th Street and Constitution Ave., NW

- * National Museum of the American Indian, 4th Street and Independence Ave., SW
- * National Portrait Gallery, 750 Ninth Street, NW
- * National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
- * National Zoological Park, 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW
- * Renwick Gallery, 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
- * Smithsonian Institution Building, 10th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW

The Smithsonian is now offering tour packages for groups of 20 or more. More information can be found on their web site.

State Department - 2201 C St., NW. The Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State, which are used for official functions hosted by the Secretary of State and other high level government officials, are open for free pre-arranged tours. These rooms hold a premier collection of 18th century American furniture, paintings and decorative arts. Guided tours are conducted Monday through Friday at 9:30a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 2:45p.m. Reservations are required and should be made approximately 90 days in advance, due to the large volume of requests. Call (202) 647-3241.

Supreme Court - 1st St. and East Capitol Streets, NW. Open Monday through Friday from 9:00a.m.-4:30p.m., except Federal holidays. The Supreme Court is the highest Court in the land, and is made up of nine justices who are appointed for life terms. The Court convenes on the first Monday in October and stays in session until it has heard all of its cases and handed down all of its decisions. Tours are conducted in the courtroom from 9:30a.m.-3:30p.m. every hour on the half hour when the Court is not sitting. For reservations and information, call (202) 479-3000.

U. S. Naval Observatory - 34th St. and Massachusetts Ave., NW. Public tours of the USNO are offered on selected Monday evenings from 8:30p.m.-10:00p.m., except federal holidays. Tours will include a presentation of the mission and history of the Naval Observatory, a view of the development of USNO's timekeeping responsibilities, and (weather permitting) viewing of celestial objects with the 12-inch Alvan Clark refractor with an Astronomer. Requests for reservations should be submitted at least 4-6 weeks before a scheduled tour, call (202) 762-1467.

Washington Monument - On the National Mall at 15th St., NW. Hours are from 9:00a.m.-4:45p.m., closed Christmas. In order to enter the Washington Monument, tickets are required. Free tickets are distributed for that day's visit from the kiosk at 15th St. and Jefferson Drive on a first-come first-served basis. Hours for the ticket kiosk are 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m., but tickets run out early. Reservations for the Washington Monument may be made by calling (800) 967-2283 or over the internet. Those making advance reservations will be charged \$1.50 service fee per ticket, plus a \$.50 handling fee per order.

National Zoological Park - 3001 Connecticut Ave., NW. See Smithsonian Institution above.